IDW

40

COVER A

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

STANLEY • THOMAS • KEANE • WYCOUGH • ITO • BRECKEL

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

STORY
EVAN STANLEY

ART
EVAN STANLEY
ADAM BRYCE THOMAS

INKS
MARIA KEANE
JOHN WYCOUGH

COLORS
HEATHER BRECKEL
LEONARDO ITO

LETTERS
SHAWN LEE

ASSISTANT EDITOR
RILEY FARMER

EDITOR
DAVID MARIOTTE

Special thanks to Mai Kiyotaki, Michael Cisneros, Sandra Jo, Sonic Team, and everyone at Sega for their invaluable assistance.

For international rights, contact **licensing@idwpublishing.com**

IDW®
www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

Nachie Marsham, Publisher • **Blake Kobashigawa**, VP of Sales • **Tara McCrillis**, VP Publishing Operations • **John Barber**, Editor-in-Chief • **Mark Doyle**, Editorial Director, Originals • **Joe Hughes**, Director, Talent Relations • **Anna Morrow**, Sr. Marketing Director • **Keith Davidsen**, Senior Manager, PR • **Topher Alford**, Sr. Digital Marketing Manager • **Shauna Monteforte**, Sr. Director of Manufacturing Operations • **Jamie Miller**, Sr. Operations Manager • **Nathan Widick**, Sr. Art Director, Head of Design • **Neil Uyetake**, Sr. Art Director, Design & Production • **Shawn Lee**, Art Director, Design & Production • **Jack Rivera**, Art Director, Marketing

Ted Adams and **Robbie Robbins**, IDW Founders

SEGA®

Facebook: **facebook.com/idwpublishing** • Twitter: **@idwpublishing**
YouTube: **youtube.com/idwpublishing** • Instagram: **@idwpublishing**

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #40. APRIL 2021. ©SEGA. All rights reserved. SEGA is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. SEGA and SONIC THE HEDGEHOG are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION. © 2021 Idea and Design Works, LLC. All Rights Reserved. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 2765 Truxtun Road, San Diego, CA 92106. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

EVERY MOVE YOU THREE MAKE, EACH TRICK OR TRAP YOU WEEDLE YOUR WAY AROUND...

...WHY, THAT'S ALL DATA ON HOW I CAN MAKE MY TECHNOLOGY *EVEN BETTER* IN THE FUTURE.

THREE ON THREE... NOW IT'S A *FAIR* FIGHT!

I'D SAY THAT'S A POINT FOR ME AND MY *GENIUS*...

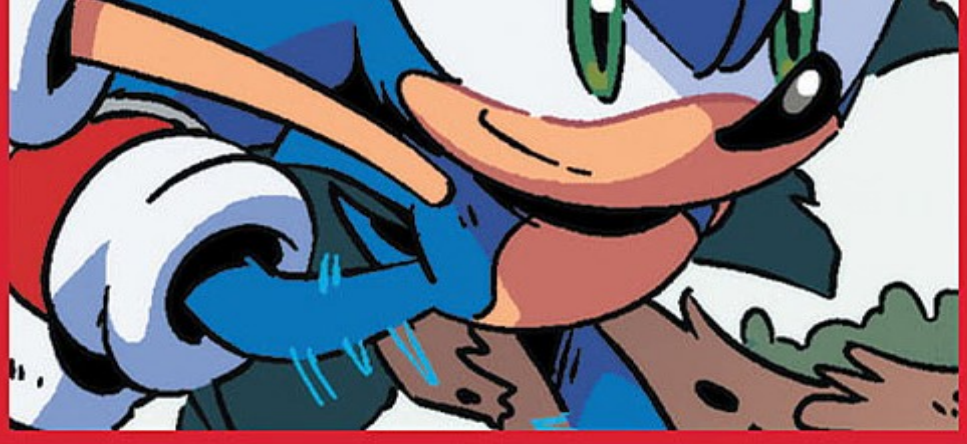
WE GOTTA GET IN THERE! WHERE ARE THEY? IS IT CLOSE?

I DUNNO... I CAN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE ON THE SCHEMATIC OF THE TOWER.

THOSE GATE-LOOKING THINGS ARE ALL OVER THIS PLACE, THOUGH.

OH, YEAH! I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT WHICH ONES ARE CONNECTED...

HERE GOES NOTHING!



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

The Blue Blur.
Fastest Thing Alive.

AMY ROSE

Hammer-swinging Heroine.
Restoration ally.

MILES "TAILS" PROWER

Tech-savvy Sidekick.
High-flying genius.

TANGLE THE LEMUR

Excitable Hero.
Elastic-tailed brawler.

HAVING FUN YET? I KNOW I AM!

GAH!

SPLSHHH

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE WRAPPED THIS UP, THOUGH.

D-DON'T WORRY, TAILS...!

!

I'LL MAKE IT QUICK. AFTER ALL, I'M A BUSY MAN.

SPSH-PSH-PSH

HEY, DOC!

HEADS DOWN, GUYS!

THANKS FOR THE SHOWER...

...BUT I THINK YOU NEED ONE MORE!

WHA-- NO!

RIGHT ON TIME.

AMY, GIMME A BOOST!

HUH? TAILS CAN--

--NO TIME! GET ME UP THERE!

IF YOU SAY SO...

BOING

PIKO

NO BLOW-DRY? WHAT KIND OF SALON ARE YOU RUNNING HERE?

YOU INFURIATING LITTLE...

WHOOSH

ZWEE

WHAM

ARE YOU OKAY?

NEVER BETTER! SAY, WHEN DID YOU GET FOUR TAILS...?

WHUMMMM

NO MORE FUN AND GAMES.

MEANWHILE, ABOVE...

WHO'S READY TO--

--GAAK!

THWAM

TANGLE?! WHAT--

I WAS IN THE AREA AND I THOUGHT I'D DROP BY...

"...I HOPE YOU LEFT ME SOMETHING TO SMASH!"

AH, MISS?

MIGHT I INQUIRE--

I'M NOT AN EGGMAN ROBOT. AT LEAST, NOT LIKE...

...OH, I DON'T KNOW. IT'S COMPLICATED.

DO YOU KNOW HIM?

THE BOSS? SURE, WE'RE HIS RIGHT-HAND ROBOTS!

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR HIM?

NOTHING SPECIAL. COOK, CLEAN, MAKE COFFEE...

HE'S VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT THAT! NICE AND STRONG, NO MILK--

--AND LOTS AND LOTS OF SUGAR.

WHAT ARE YOU TWO NINCOMPOOPS DOING?! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT BLASTED LEMUR HAD GOTTEN IN?!

YEEK!

THESE LITTLE PESTS ARE MAKING MESS OF--

--WAIT, WHAT WAS THAT VOICE? ENGAGING AUTOPILOT...

WELL, WELL... WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?

UNCONVENTIONAL MATERIAL, BUT I'D RECOGNIZE THAT JOINT DESIGN ANYWHERE...

...THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON ON THIS PLANET WHO BUILDS MACHINES LIKE THAT. *ME*.

YES... YOU'RE THE LITTLE HELPER I PUT TOGETHER WHILE I WAS DELUSIONAL, THINKING I WAS SOME SORT OF SMALL-TOWN INVENTOR.*

EVEN IN THAT IMPARED STATE, I WAS STILL INNOVATING!

REMIND ME, WHAT DID "MR. TINKER" CALL YOU?

B-BELLE. BELLE THE TINKERER.

AHH, HOW... SWEET.

*ISSUES 5-6--EDS.

DON'T GO ANYWHERE. I HAVE QUESTIONS FOR YOU. BUT FIRST, I HAVE A HEDGEHOG I NEED TO CRUSH--

WAIT! YOU CAN'T--SORRY, I MEAN, YOU WOULDN'T...

?

YOU WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS, NOT WITHOUT A REASON.

PLEASE, TELL ME THAT THIS ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.

I-I MEAN, HE WOULDN'T...

HMM. YOU CARED FOR MY ALTER-EGO. VERY WELL, I'LL GIVE YOU A REASON.

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE TOWER YOU FIND YOURSELF IN.

"FOR A MAN OF MY INTELLECTUAL CALIBER, THE RESTRAINTS OF REALITY CAN, AT TIMES, BECOME STIFLING... MERELY TINKERING WITHIN THE LIMITS OF OUR BANAL WORLD NO LONGER SATISFIES.

"THAT'S WHERE THIS PLACE COMES IN."

"BEHOLD... I HAVE BENT THE LAWS OF PHYSICS THEMSELVES TO MY WILL! THIS MAZE GROWS AND FOLDS BACK ON ITSELF AD INFINITUM, A LABYRINTH WITHOUT PEER.

"THE ROBOTS I'VE SENT IN WILL BURN OUT LONG BEFORE THEY ESCAPE.

"ONE DAY, IT WILL HAVE THE RESILIENCE TO HOLD EVEN SONIC, AND HE ISN'T NEARLY SO DURABLE.

"NEXT, A MODEL OF SORTS. A PERFECT SIMULATION OF A TRAGICALLY IMPERFECT WORLD, NOT YET UNDER MY CONTROL.

"I CAN TEST HOW QUICKLY MY BADNIK HORDES CAN OVERTAKE A TOWN, TO 'RECRUIT' A FRESH CROP OF UNSUSPECTING TEST SUBJECTS.

"OH, AND I ESPECIALLY LIKE THIS-- A NEW WAY FOR MY BADNIKS TO EVOLVE, DISCOVERING NEW WAYS TO BEST DOMINATE WHATEVER ENVIRONMENT THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN!

"EVERY GENERATION WILL REVEAL NEW AND TERRIFYING ADAPTATIONS."

THERE'S MORE, BUT THE FINER POINTS OF MY BRILLIANCE WOULD NO DOUBT BE LOST ON YOU.

SO TELL ME, WHAT MAKES YOUR PRECIOUS TOYMAKER WORTHY OF SUCH ADMIRATION, IN THE FACE OF MY UNRESTRAINED GENIUS?

KRAK

THAT SURE IS THE BOSS...

?

FZZT

ZZZAAK

WHY IS IT DOING THAT...?

AH, THAT WOULD BE THE GATE OVERLOADING. IT'S NOT SAFE TO LEAVE SOMETHING IN THE ENERGY FIELD FOR LONG, IT COULD CAUSE A FEEDBACK LOOP.

OH GEEZ-- WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?

YOU DIDN'T ASK!

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE'S A FEEDBACK LOOP?

WHAT YOU'D EXPECT... RAPID EXPANSION OF THE ENERGY FIELD, UNTIL IT COLLAPSES UNDER ITS OWN WEIGHT AND IMPLODES.

"...DON'T WORRY, DESTRUCTION BY IMPLOSION IS QUICK AND ENTIRELY PAINLESS."

INCOMING!

WHAK

HAH!

BULLSEYE!

WHAM

THAT'S A NEW LOOK.

IT'S NICE TO BRANCH OUT A LITTLE FROM TIME TO TIME!

HEY, DOES EGGMAN SEEM AWFULLY QUIET TO ANYONE ELSE...?

AUTOPILOT DISENGAGED... *AUGH!*

WHAT HAVE YOU ANIMALS BEEN DOING TO MY BEAUTIFUL MACHINES?!

I'VE HAD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH...

...TRY AND DODGE THIS!

UP HERE!

CRASH

HURRY...!

I AM!

BOOM

WE CAN DO IT!

KZAAAK

AAH! QUICK! IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP IT, WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT BEFORE IT OVERLOADS COMPLETELY--

BEFORE WHAT OVERLOADS?

THE GATE, IT'S--LOOK!

GAH!

I-IT'S PULLING STUFF IN!

OKAY, YEAH-- LET'S GET GOING.

IT'S GETTING STRONGER!

HEY, YOU TWO! WHAT'S THE FASTEST WAY OUT OF HERE?

STRAIGHT AHEAD, THEN TAKE A RIGHT INTO THE LOADING BAY.

GOT IT. EVERYBODY GRAB ON!

SHOOM

BRRRRRR

BWOOSH

KREEGRUNCH

WHOOMMM

MMMMM

BZZZAK

GAH!

UGH...

RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

CURIOUS... I'M NOT PICKING UP ANY SIGN OF THE TOWER. IT'S COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED!

HEY, SHOULD WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS?

THE RESTORATION'S NOT ABOUT TO START TAKING PRISONERS...

LET THEM GO.

THEY'RE NOT THE ONE WHO DID THIS.

SHE'S RIGHT... WHATEVER THEY DO NOW, IT'S NOT OUR CALL.

SO WHAT, WE JUST TOSS 'EM OFF THE PLANE?

YES. THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR CUBOT AND I TO TAKE A SMALL SABBATICAL.

YEAH, AND A VACATION! WE'RE POOPED!

I CAN DIG IT. YOU SHOULD TRY AND GET METAL TO PLAY HOOKY TOO NEXT TIME!

POP

REST AND RELAXATION, HERE WE COME!

UH... BELLE? ARE YOU OKAY?

YES. NO. I-I'M FINE.

NOTHING HAPPENED.

...

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

I WAS BUILT BY A MAN NAMED MR. TINKER. SONIC, YOU SAVED HIM ONCE.*

WHEN HE DISAPPEARED, PEOPLE TOLD ME HE'D BEEN A MONSTER ALL ALONG... THAT HE WAS DR. EGGMAN. I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT. I COULDN'T.

I THOUGHT THAT IF I COULD JUST... COULD JUST TALK TO HIM, HE'D UNDERSTAND, A-AND EXPLAIN, AND--

*ISSUE 6--EDS.

OH, NO...

THAT... REALLY SUCKS. BUT HEY--

!

YOU HELPED DO SOMETHING GOOD TODAY!

YOUR DAD WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD OF YOU FOR THAT, RIGHT?

OH, I... I GUESS HE WOULD.

YEAH!

ALTHOUGH I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'M GONNA TELL JEWEL ABOUT ALL THIS.

GOOD NEWS: WITH THE TOWER GONE, IT LOOKS LIKE THE STORM IS STARTING TO BREAK UP.

"IT SHOULD BE A SMOOTH FLIGHT BACK."

NEXT TIME:
THE DEADLY SIX RETURN!

NEXT MONTH

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Hi, Sonic Squad! Well, now we know the truth about Belle… and I just want to give her a big hug! Thank you for joining Evan Stanley, Adam Bryce Thomas, Maria Keane, John Wycough, Leonardo Ito, Heather Breckel, and Shawn Lee for this emotional conclusion to "Test Run"! Now, let's check out your art and letters!

Hello Sonic Comic Squad

I just got done rereading the series and just, WOW! It's just as good the second time around. I like the way old characters are given so much love. I like the tense moments the story forces the characters into, and I'll never forget that metal virus saga. I also just love the new characters. Starline is the swaggiest person alive, and nobody better touch my girl Whisper. I really like Belle too, and I can't wait to see where the story takes her. I just wanna say thanks for making such an awesome comic series. Everything from the story to the art is just amazing. You're doing a great job!

Astra

Hello, Astra,

Your letter made me laugh! Starline is indeed the swaggiest person (platypus?) alive. It's always so nice to hear that people love the new IDW characters because the whole team works hard to make them loveable! I know what you mean--I want to protect Whisper and Belle so much! Thank you so much for your continued support!

Hi IDW,

My name is Ben and I am 6 years old. My dad and I just read the Metal Virus story. We both really loved it! My favorite part was when the team kicked the Deadly Six's butts to get the Chaos Emeralds. I drew a picture of Tails because he is my favorite character. I even have a Tails stuffed animal. I can't wait to start reading the next story!

Thanks,
Ben

Hi, Ben,

I'm so glad to hear that you and your dad enjoyed the Metal Virus saga! If you like Sonic and friends fighting the Deadly Six… I think you'll love reading the next few issues with your dad. Have you considered doing funny voices for each character? Zomom probably has a really goofy and deep voice. Thank you so much for your letter and art, Tails is so cute, I love his smile!

Hi Sonic Team!

My name is Timothy. I'm 9 years old and a HUGE fan of Sonic the Hedgehog! I love all of the Sonic comics, books and games! The first Sonic game I ever played was Mario & Sonic at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. It was so exciting and fun! Then I started to play more Sonic games and watch Sonic shows all the time. I began asking my parents for different Sonic things like toys and comic books. My first Sonic plush toy was actually Knuckles! My favorite Sonic comic so far is #33, Cover B. I love that edition because it has Rouge and Cheese in it! I also LOVE making Sonic drawings and writing my own Sonic stories and books! I've written seven Sonic comics and books so far! I love doing role play and acting out the stories with my Sonic plush characters. Lastly, my favorite Sonic games are: Sonic Unleashed, Sonic Generations, Sonic Colors, Sonic Free Riders, Team Sonic Racing, Sonic Mania and Sonic Forces and my favorite Sonic shows are Sonic X and Sonic Boom. I can't wait to read all of the Sonic comics.

A huge fan,
Timothy

Hi, Timothy,

like you have a lot of really cool covers, too. It's way past cool that you've been inspired to write and draw your own Sonic comics. A lot of Sonic writers and artists that work on the book now started out just like you--they played every Sonic game, read every comic, collected toys--and now they get paid to draw the little blue hedgehog all day! You must have a really big imagination to come up with so many stories and role plays, I would love to hear about all of your stories one day. Thank you for your wonderful art and letter, I hope we can keep making comics you enjoy!

Thanks for joining us, Squad. Don't forget to send your art and letters to:

letters@idwpublishing.com

and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, grab your safari hats and binoculars because it's time for "Zeti Hunt"!

ART: TRACY YARDLEY COLORS: LEONARDO ITO

ART: DAN SCHOENING · COLORS: LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO

Hedgehog Destruction - LIVE

EggPawnEF-XB2006: Wow! So good! Thank you Dr. Eggman!

TheRealTrueActualSonic: :3

SSSSSScratchMan: GET WRECKED BWAHAHAHA

jumpinSpirallemur04: BAD STREAM >:(((((((((

GearsAndStarters: Um, does anyone know a Mr. Tinker?

StarsAndLines: Is this a joke? Doctor, I can't believe your using this setup. I expected better of you, but instead you'd rather devote resources into making a juvenile mindless streaming device to appease whom? Yourself? Please. Unsubscribed.

StarsAndLines: *you're

ModOrbot: Spamming and backseating is not allowed in the chat.

[Comment removed]

Supergrounder93:

EggPawnMB-XB1991: Wow! So good! Thank you Dr. Eggman!

SUBSCRIBE TO THE EGGMAN EMPIRE